

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCS-01 SCA-01 L-02 NSC-07 NSCE-00

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R 081322Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6414

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0990

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MA

SUBJECT: W/W REPPAS

REF: STATE 144854

1. I CONCUR IN PRINCIPLE IN DEPT'S PROPOSAL APPROACH HEAD OF GOVERNMENT RAMANANTSOA ON REPPAS. HOWEVER, TO AVOID OVER-LOADING PLATTER OF SIGNIFICANT MATTERS ON WHICH WE SEEKING FAVORABLE GOMR ACTION, I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT FOR FEW WEEKS BEFORE MAKING SUGGESTED APPROACH.

2. AS RESULT DEVELOPMENTS LAST WEEK, WE NOW HAVE TWO QUESTIONS OF MAJOR U.S. INTEREST BEFORE GOMR:

(A) CONCLUSION OF NASA STATION AGREEMENT (ON WHICH I PRESENTED PROPOSED TEXT) (TANANARIVE'S 0964).

(B) INITIATIVE DESIGNED TRY BRING GOMR FROM HOSTILE TO AT LEAST NEUTRAL POSITION ON IMPORTANT MATTERS OF U.S. INTEREST AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (TANANARIVE'S 0957).

3. WE SHOULD WITHIN FEW WEEKS KNOW HOW WE COMING OUT ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS, AND CAN THEN DETERMINE HOW BEST TO PLAY REPPAS CASE WITH GOMR. MY INCLINATION AT MOMENT WOULD BE TO STRESS
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HUMANITARIAN FACTORS AND DOWNPLAY THREAT-TO-RELATIONS THEME

SINCE I USED LATTER EXTENSIVELY WITH MINISTER JUSTICE IN MARCH WHO RELAYED IT TO RAMANANTSOA, AND IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PRESSURE BY RAMANANTSOA AND BOOMERANG IN VIEW HIS RECENT REACTION ON RAILROAD LOAN AND NASA AGREEMENT.

4. ALSO, DURING DELAY SUPREME COURT MIGHT REACH DECISION ON REPPAS APPEAL. WE HAVE FOUND THAT HIS LAWYER LEBEL HAS NOT YET RETURNED FROM TRIP ABROAD, AND THUS THAT CHANNEL NOT NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKING ON STATUS OF APPEAL.

5. IF, IN MEANTIME, DEPT FEELS SOME ACTION WITH GOMR NECESSARY, WE SUGGEST RENEWED APPROACH THROUGH MALAGASY AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, AS AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE AND I DISCUSSED IN APRIL. WE SHALL ALSO PURSUE MATTER HERE IF AND AS OPPORTUNITY ARISES. FOR EXAMPLE, I AM INVITING MINISTER JUSTICE TO DINNER FOR NEW DCM ON JULY 18, AND MAY HAVE CHANCE RAISE AMNESTY OR EXPULSION WITH HIM AGAIN.
MENDENHALL

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